

No. 6.— *Revision of the Nearctic Mecoptera*

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The Mecoptera, or scorpion-flies, occupy a small corner of the present insect world, including only about two hundred species. In common with other inconspicuous insects they have received little attention from entomologists generally, and they are sparsely represented in most collections. The present revision was started several years ago at the suggestion of Nathan Banks with the intention of placing the Nearctic species on a firmer and more modern taxonomic basis, and with the hope that the publication of such a work would arouse some interest in these insects, resulting in the collection of further specimens or in the addition of observations on their biology.

Through the courtesy of many entomologists I have been enabled to examine over six thousand specimens of Nearctic Mecoptera, of which about four-fifths belong to *Panorpa*. To these collectors and the institutions with which they are associated, I am grateful for the kind coöperation which has made this study possible: Professor J. C. Bradley, Cornell University; Dr. W. E. Britton, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; Professor C. T. Brues, Harvard University; C. S. Brimley, North Carolina Department of Agriculture; A. N. Caudell, United States National Museum; Dr. G. C. Crampton, Massachusetts Agricultural College; J. E. Davis, Alsea, Oregon; W. T. Davis, Staten Island, New York; G. P. Engelhardt, Brooklyn Museum; Professor F. W. Fattig, Emory University, Georgia; Professor T. H. Frison, Illinois State Natural History Survey; Dr. F. M. Gaige, University of Michigan; W. J. Gerhard, Field Museum, Chicago; Dr. Hugh Glasgow, New York State Museum; Professor H. G. Good, Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama; C. W. Johnson, Boston Society of Natural History; Dr. J. I. Kendall, Sterlington, New York; Professor C. E. Mickel, University of Minnesota; A. P. Morse, Peabody Museum, Salem, Mass.; Professor Franklin Sherman, Clemson College, South Carolina; Professor R. C. Smith, Kansas State Agricultural College; E. P. Van Duzee, California Academy of Sciences; and Professor W. M. Wheeler, Harvard University. I am especially indebted to the authorities of the United States National Museum for the privilege of studying the type of *Panorpa latipennis* Hine, and to Dr. H. Eltringham of the British Museum of Natural History, and Dr. A. Ball of the Natural History Museum of Brussels, for careful drawings